



LYNEHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Care Quality Creativity

*Lynneham Enriched
Academic Program*

LEAP Parents and Carers Handbook 2021-2022

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The Lyneham Enriched Academic Program

Lyneham High School has multiple opportunities for gifted students to excel in both their studies and friendships. One such way is LEAP – a program for students who are identified as being gifted in a range of disciplines and who benefit socially from being with like-minded children.

LEAP is a unique approach to meeting the needs of gifted children. We offer students placement in all four core academic areas – English, Mathematics, Science and HaSS (History and Social Sciences) for the duration of their time at Lyneham. This means that students entering the program in Year 7 will have the same peers in each of those subjects for their four years at Lyneham High School.

LEAP is an enrichment program, not an acceleration program, and students will cover the same curriculum and assessment as all students as per the Australian Curriculum. However, in LEAP classes, students are able to experience additional enrichment activities, are able to go into more depth and are supported by a continuous group of their peers. LEAP staff are offered ongoing professional learning to best facilitate this type of learning environment.

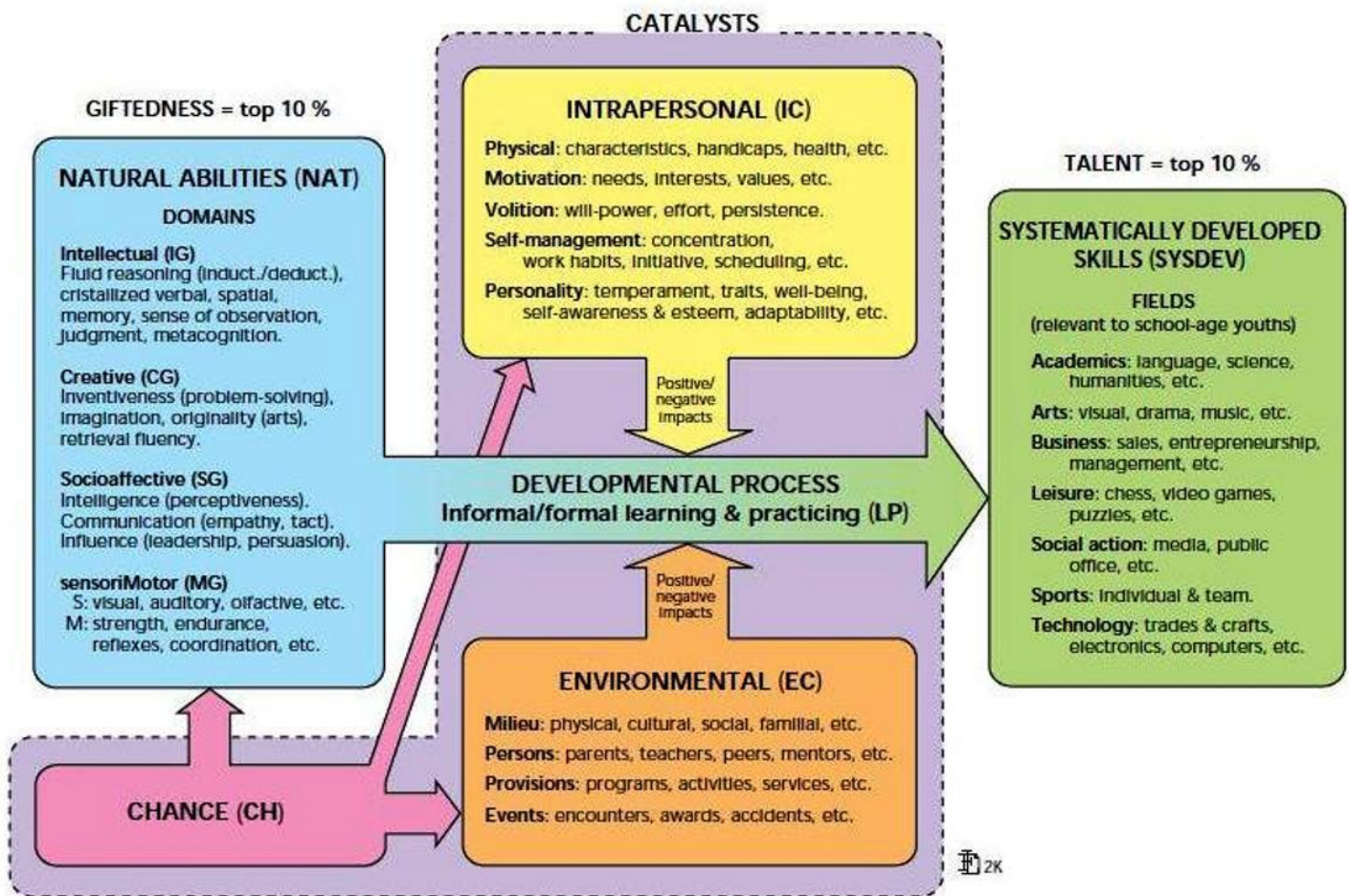
The LEAP aims are:

- To provide a stimulating high school education in a supportive environment;
- To create opportunities which promote knowledge, concept and skill acquisition;
- To encourage independent student enquiry and learning;
- To encourage students to develop or realise their potential;
- To encourage students to respect the successes of others; and
- To have pride in their own achievements.

Gifted and Talented Education

There are different models and definitions of giftedness. When the Lyneham Enriched Academic Program (LEAP) was founded in 1983, Renzulli's (1978) model focusing on ability, creativity and task commitment was appropriate. However, over two decades later, working practice at Lyneham High School reflects the ideas of Professor Francoys Gagné. Gagné, in his Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent, refers to natural abilities, (aptitudes or gifts) which, depending on environmental factors, may develop into talents. This approach emphasises that social and educational factors are important to gifted children fulfilling their potential (Gagné 2003). The LEAP program also follows the Education Directorate policy on Gifted and Talented Education.

In summary "giftedness" refers to a students' innate competence and "talent" refers to outstanding performance: that is talent emerges from giftedness as a consequence of the students' learning experiences (Gagné 2007).



Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (DMGT.EN.2K)

Identification and Placement Process

Identification

Identification consists of both subjective and objective measures. Objective measures include standardised tests of potential and performance; ability and achievement. Subjective measures are used in conjunction with objective measures to determine placement in the LEAP program. Subjective measures include parent/carer, teacher, peer and self- nominations. Reports from psychologists are also accepted.

Nomination

There are four possible ways for a student to be nominated. Should the nomination be received prior to a testing session, then the student will sit the LEAP tests to determine entry. If the nomination is made after the tests, then the student will go onto the *Watchlist*.

Parent/Carer Nomination

Any parent/carer may nominate his or her child for consideration for the LEAP program by completing the official "LEAP Nomination Form" from either this LEAP Handbook or online.

Teacher/School Nomination

If the Principal, Primary or High School Teacher or School Psychologist considers that a student would be a likely candidate for the program and that student's parents/carers have not nominated him/her, they will contact that student's parents/carers advising them of the program and the necessary procedures to take.

Self-Nomination

This is more likely to occur in Years 8, 9 or 10. The student and/or parents/carers should contact the LEAP Coordinator/s.

Peer Nomination

While rare, some students have been nominated by their peers. In this case, the LEAP Coordinator/s would be in contact with parents/carers to discuss the next steps.

Testing

There are two moments during each school year when LEAP testing occurs.

Testing of Year 6 students for the following year's Year 7 LEAP cohort is undertaken in the later half of the year. The school will make contact with all applicants via the email address that they provide on the 'Special Programs' application form to inform them of the testing dates.

Testing of students who were unable to sit the test in Year 6, students new to the school who have nominated for LEAP, and current students who are on the LEAP Watchlist also have an opportunity to sit the LEAP test early in term 1 (generally in week one or two). This term one testing date will be advertised on the school website, and in the daily notices read each day in Home Group in the days leading up to the test.

When the tests are scheduled, they take approximately 5-6 hours to complete (including a break and administration time) and include testing on mathematical skills, writing skills, general reasoning, spatial reasoning, reading comprehension and analysis, and knowledge of science. The details of these tests are not revealed in order to protect the integrity of the process. It should also be noted that:

- A nomination form must be submitted prior to the day of testing.
- Papers used in previous years are not available for distribution and there is no practice test paper.
- Individual test results are not issued to students or parents/carers at any time, nor are cut-off scores

discussed.

- Test results are used for the sole purpose of placement into the LEAP Program.

The Watchlist

The Watchlist is a list of students who have been nominated after a testing period. The LEAP Coordinator/s liaises with parents and teachers to see if the student should be recommended for LEAP. Students who demonstrate other gifted and talented identifiers (as outlined in the 'Gifted and Talented Education' section) over a period of six months are most likely to proceed to the testing stage.

Students who meet these requirements are notified and they remain on the Watchlist and are invited to take the LEAP test the following year. This decision is made by LEAP Coordinator/s in consultation with the student's teachers and the Deputy Principal (Students).

Students who have already been unsuccessful at the LEAP test may not sit the tests again until 2 calendar years have passed.

The LEAP Committee

The LEAP Committee consists of the Principal, the Deputy Principal (Students) and the LEAP Coordinator/s. When considering whether or not a student should be placed in LEAP, the Committee will be guided by

- the professional judgement of the teachers consulted
- the most recent results on the LEAP tests (if applicable)
- the information in the nomination form
- the student's most recent NAPLAN results
- other relevant factors

LEAP Classes

All learning programs aim to encourage students to achieve their potential. LEAP offers places not only to the gifted, but also to those with particular talents. LEAP students study the same subjects but are exposed to more extension and enrichment in their classes.

The LEAP Committee invites teachers, parents and students to submit the names of those students who could benefit from placement in one or more LEAP classes (see Watchlist for criteria). The LEAP Committee will consult with the students, their parents and where possible will offer LEAP places to those students whom the Committee considers possess talent in the specific subject areas.

It must be remembered that LEAP is a special program for the genuinely gifted and talented rather than a top streamed class. Students are required to maintain a satisfactory level of achievement and effort to remain in these classes.

ED Enrolment Policy – Year 6 Students

An application for placement in this Lyneham High School program is considered in accordance with the ED Enrolment Policy. A prospective LEAP student must also submit an online enrolment - called the nomination form. (This will be posted on the school website.)

ED Gifted and Talented Policy

Lyneham High encourages all parents and carers to become familiar with the ED's G&T Policy (2019). It can be found at:

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/policies

Important LEAP Dates – 2022

Date	Event	Location
Tuesday 27 April 2021	LHS Year 6 Information Night Ticketed event - refer website	LHS Hall
Wednesday 28 April 2021	LEAP Information Session Ticketed event - refer website	LHS Hall
Early August	Invitations to apply for Special Programs (students with enrolment offers only)	Online form
Date to be confirmed	Special Program applications close. No further applications will be accepted in 2021 for 2022	
Date/s to be confirmed	LEAP Year 6 Tests Session/s	LHS
Term 4 - Advising LEAP Outcomes	Successful families advised	Email
	Unsuccessful families advised	Email
Friday 31 January	LEAP test registrations close for existing year 8-10 students, and late enrolling year 7 students.	matt.bright@ed.act.edu.au esther.packardhill@ed.act.edu.au
Friday 4 February at 9am	Year 7-10 Testing	LHS Library

Year 6 Testing information

Please note:

1. Year 8-10 students already enrolled at Lyneham High, and any late enrolling year 7 (from year 6) students, sit the tests in February 2022; Year 6 students may choose either Session 1 or Session 2 (if two are offered), they do not need to sit both.
2. On the test day, students should bring the following:
 - \$25 – the test fee (payment by cash or cheque only, payable to *Lyneham High School*; credit card payments **are not** accepted)
 - A charged Chromebook or equivalent device
 - pen or pencil, eraser and sharpener
 - a water bottle and a snack
 - a book to read in case they finish early
3. Students attending the test are requested to be in the school Reception area by 8.45am and will be taken to the testing area.
4. At the completion of testing at approximately 1.30pm, Year 6 students can be collected by parents/carers.
5. Follow-up interviews may be held for a small number of students where we require further information.
6. Families will be notified by email.
7. The only results we are permitted to release are whether or not the student has been offered a place in LEAP. No further information will be given.

Contact Information

Lyneham **E**nriched **A**cademic **P**rogram

A Gifted and Talented Education Program

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LEAP Committee Matt Bright (LEAP Coordinator)
Esther Packard Hill (LEAP Coordinator)
Julie Collins (Deputy Principal Students)
Rob Emanuel (Principal)

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